

Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

August 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska

The Gaps and Barriers Standing Committee of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) met on August 26, 2005 in a regular meeting during a breakout from the ECICC meeting at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Sue Obermiller chaired the meeting.

Present: Sue Adams, Mary A Frank, Nina Baker, Lynne Brehm, Christine Carr, Eric Dunning, Carolyn Edwards, Carol Fichter, Pat Frost, Sally Hansen, Mary Jo Iwan (10:30), Barb Jackson, Eleanor Kirkland, Susan Kringle, Joan Luebbers, Paul Matson, Tammy Mittelstaedt, Roger Reikofski, Barb Schliesser, Linda Shandera, Mark Smith, Carey Winkler, Denise Wright; Sue Obermiller, chair; Martha Gadberry, facilitator; Susan Dahm, recorder.

Opening:

- i. The meeting opened with self-introductions. Sue Obermiller chaired the meeting with Martha Gadberry facilitating discussion.
- ii. Sue announced that Carey Winkler had agreed to act as the parent co-chair of the GBC.
- iii. Minutes from the May 13, 2005 GBC meeting were provided in members' pre-meeting packets.
Action:
 - Motion, seconded: To approve the May 13, 2005 minutes as written. The motion passed by a voice vote; there were no abstentions.
- iv. Martha Gadberry reviewed the ground rules and introduced GELMO (good enough, let's move on).

Agenda:

1. Federal Verification Visit

Barb Schliesser reported on plans for the federal verification visit that will be conducted by a team from OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs) at the Nebraska Department of Education Oct 17, 18 and 19. The last OSEP visit was in 1998. OSEP will be looking at Nebraska monitoring procedures, data collection, services for young children, and the state ICC. In the past, OSEP has talked with parents of the state ICC as part of their visit. Barb will take the lead in contacting ECICC members if the OSEP representatives want a conference call set up with ECICC members.

2. Head Start

- Eleanor Kirkland briefly informed the group about the self-assessment surveys that she had requested from ECICC members. She will present more information to the larger ECICC membership during the afternoon agenda.
- Sue Obermiller updated GBC members on the status of Head Start reauthorization. She provided information about the status of Head Start in Nebraska and said she would be discussing issues with Nebraska legislators.
- Mary A Frank distributed advocacy packets. She is currently working on a state Head Start profile.

3. CAPTA

- Linda Shandera introduced Micaela Swigle, who recently joined the Co-Leads to replace Charlie Lewis. Micaela has a background in Protection and Safety.
- Linda reviewed progress on the implementation of CAPTA (Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act). The next phase includes looking at issues at the level and providing training and technical assistance to build capacity at the local level. Linda answered questions from the

group related to informing judges about the Early Development Network system as it relates to CAPTA, how EDN might be involved in Protection and Safety meetings at the local level, and the need for more information on the impact on substance abuse as a trend and how it may relate to CAPTA.

- The group invited more information on CAPTA related issues for future GBC agendas.

4. General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG)

- Barb Schliesser introduced the subject about the current Nebraska GSEG, which has been extended for a second year.
 - Carol Fichter spoke about the GSEG initiative to support socio-emotional health of young children through a model of early childhood behavioral supports that was piloted in Lincoln and Omaha. They are using the grant to build an infrastructure and provide training and education to support children in natural environments and the parents of those children. The model involves families and is approached from a partnership perspective. Carol invited GBC member to participate in a meeting of the management team on December 16 to explore the state framework. Mary A Frank and Carey Winkler volunteered their involvement. PTI-Nebraska will also be represented.
 - Sue Obermiller informed GBC members about results of a pilot project with a Columbus area Head Start grantee and how they are setting up and using this system, which will serve as a model for other local groups.
 - Carolyn Edwards suggested looking at the program for course development and credit.
 - GBC members agreed that 15-20 minutes should be allowed in the next meeting to discuss what is needed.
- Barb also informed the group about a new GSEG application related to child and family outcomes that is being written. The application for the competitive grant is due October 3, 2005. The new grant would look at outcomes for children birth to age 5 and family surveys. She asked for the GBC to recommend that the ECICC act as an advisory for the new GSEG.

5. State Performance Plan (SPP)

Barb Schliesser thanked the GBC members who had attended the special GBC meeting on August 25 to provide input to the Part C State Performance Plan, which is due to OSEP on December 2, 2005. Recommendations made by the GBC group will be taken forward and incorporated into the SPP indicators along with recommendations from other stakeholder groups.

6. Gaps and Barriers Reporting Form

- Susan Dahm reported for Judy Fricke on the status of the next phase of form development and asked for direction on how to best proceed with a web-based for the form. Until a web-based form is field-tested and approved, the pilot form may continue to be used. Susan will provide a generic version for anyone interested in using it with other groups.
- The group discussed several issues identified during the pilot gaps and barriers reporting project for the GBC to research and make recommendations. There was agreement that a GBC focus should include input from a variety of groups and that some time should be spent discussing the options before setting priorities.

Action:

- Motion by Eric Dunning, seconded: To hold a special Gaps and Barriers Committee meeting from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on December 8, the day before the next ECICC meeting to discuss options and set priorities for a GBC study focus. The motion carried by voice vote.
- Group members will gather data on gaps and barriers from a variety of groups to be presented and discussed at the December 8 meeting, as follows:
 - Planning Region Teams' reports: Judy Fricke and Nina Baker
 - Head Start: Sue Obermiller and Eleanor Kirkland

- Data from CONNECT: Linda Shandera
- Nebraska Family Child Care Association: Eleanor Kirkland
- Regional Training Coalitions' survey and NeAEYC: Eleanor Kirkland
- Survey from Together for Kids and Families: Mark Smith and Lynne Brehm
- GBC members may gather information from any early childhood group using whatever means they determine will be most useful in gathering information on gaps and barriers.
- Suggestions for discussing included: What do you see as top priorities? From what perspective do you see this? Identify data needed to provide to policy makers.

7. Public Awareness

Barb Schliesser presented information about public awareness activities that were conducted by Steve Miller as a part of the 10th anniversary of the Early Development Network. These included television spots, targeted billboards, and booths at county and state fairs. Mary Jo Iwan said that HHSS had received some negative feedback from some groups about who was paying for the advertising and questioning the cost. A suggestion was made to include Kids Connection in public awareness efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2005, location to be determined
Friday, December 9, 2005 in conjunction with the regular ECICC meeting

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- ✓ Minutes: Gaps and Barriers Committee, May 13, 2005

